

§ 19.723 Maintenance and preservation of records.

(a) *Place of maintenance.* Records required by this part shall be prepared and kept by the proprietor at the plant where the operation or transaction occurs and shall be available for inspection by any ATF officer during business hours.

(b) *Reproduction of original records.* (1) Whenever any record, because of its condition, becomes unsuitable for its intended or continued use, the proprietor shall reproduce such record, by a process approved by the regional director (compliance) under § 19.725 for reproducing records, and such reproduction shall be treated and considered for all purposes as though it were the original record.

(2) All provisions of law applicable to the original record shall be applicable to such reproductions.

(c) *Retention of records.* (1) Records required by this part shall be preserved for a period of not less than three years from the date thereof or the date of the last entry required to be made thereon, whichever is later. However, the regional director (compliance) may require records to be kept for an additional period not exceeding three years in any case where such retention is deemed necessary or advisable for the protection of the revenue.

(2) The period for retention of records prescribed in paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall not apply to copies of outstanding approved formulas or to copies of formulas which form the basis for claims for credit or refund of taxes on spirits returned to bonded premises. A copy of any such formula shall be kept by the proprietor at the plant where spirits are processed subject to the formula or at the plant where such spirits are received.

(d) *Data processing.* (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, record data maintained on data processing equipment may be kept at a location other than the plant premises if the original transaction (source) records required by §§ 19.736–19.779 are kept available for inspection at the plant premises.

(2) Data which has been accumulated on cards, tapes, discs, or other accepted

record media must be retrievable within five business days.

(3) The applicable data processing program shall be made available for examination if requested by an ATF officer.

(Sec. 807, Pub. L. 96–39, 93 Stat. 284 (26 U.S.C. 5207))

§ 19.724 Modified forms.

(a) *Application.* Proprietors desiring to modify prescribed forms shall submit an application to the Director, through the regional director (compliance). The application shall be accompanied by:

(1) A copy of each proposed form with typical entries; and

(2) A statement showing the need for use of the modified forms. Modified forms shall not be used until approved by the Director.

(b) *Restrictions.* The use of modified forms shall not relieve a proprietor from any requirement of this part. The Director may require a proprietor to immediately discontinue the use of any modified form when such use is found to pose administrative problems.

(Sec. 807, Pub. L. 96–39, 93 Stat. 284 (26 U.S.C. 5207))

§ 19.725 Photographic copies of records.

(a) *Application.* Proprietors who desire to record, copy or reproduce records, required by this part, by any process which accurately reproduces or forms a durable medium for so reproducing the original of such records, shall apply to the regional director (compliance) for permission to do so, describing:

(1) The records to be reproduced,

(2) The reproduction process to be employed,

(3) The manner in which the reproductions are to be preserved, and

(4) The provisions to be made for examining, viewing, and using such reproductions.

(b) *Approval.* The regional director (compliance) shall not approve any application unless the manner of preservation of the reproductions and the provisions for examining, viewing, and using such reproductions are satisfactory.